

OBITUARY

EDWARD CHARLES PELHAM-CLINTON (1920–1988)

With the sudden death on Christmas Day 1988 of Teddy Pelham-Clinton we lost one of our best known and most distinguished members. His interest in Lepidoptera began at an early age when he lived in Somerset and was greatly stimulated whilst he was at Eton under the guidance of Nigel Wykes. It was there, with the late Denzil Ffennell, that he worked out the system of recording that makes his collection and notebooks such a significant and unique contribution to the study of Lepidoptera in Britain.

Teddy joined the Society, then the 'South London', in 1940 in his 20th year. In the war he served in the Royal Artillery reaching the rank of Captain. After that he read zoology at Cambridge and engaged in much collecting in that area. He moved to Edinburgh in 1951 to join the Agricultural Research Council's ectoparasite unit based at Edinburgh University and later the Moredun Research Institute.

By then his entomological enthusiasms were quite wide and as well as Lepidoptera he was actively collecting caddisflies, sawflies, fleas and some families of beetles in his spare time. In Edinburgh his first professional commitment was to flies of veterinary importance and, with J.A. Campbell, he published a revision of the British species of *Culicoides* in 1960. At the same time he was engaged in the mass sampling of various other groups of flies, and also delving into world Ceratopogonidae, but the unit became entirely redirected towards helminthology and his work as a dipteran taxonomist no longer received support. Teddy refused to make such a radical change, however, and successfully negotiated the right to work on dung-associated beetles on the grounds of their relevance to helminthology.

In 1960 Teddy was recruited as an Assistant Keeper to the staff of the Royal Scottish Museum (now subsumed into the National Museums of Scotland) by Rodger Waterston, then keeper of natural history, whose interests in entomology were mainly directed towards Odonata, Neuroptera, Hemiptera and aculeate Hymenoptera. Teddy's interests in Lepidoptera, Diptera, Trichoptera, Siphonaptera and Coleoptera were an extraordinarily apt match, and there followed a period of considerable curatorial advance in the Museum.

In turn Teddy curated the Museum's British collections of fleas, several families of calyptrate flies, caddisflies, and sawflies — all the time adding to them substantially by enthusiastic collecting and incorporating his own pre-existing material. He then switched his main attention to Lepidoptera, but here faced an unfortunate dilemma. He wanted to continue to make his own collection of British Lepidoptera but felt that he should voluntarily adhere to the rules operating in the BM(NH). These forbade employees to collect privately the groups on which they worked, in order to diminish possible conflicts of interest. Giving up his own collection was out of the question, but he saw moral salvation in his decision not to work directly on the museum's British Lepidoptera. Instead he concentrated on the exotic holdings, bringing curatorial order to what had been a very chaotic accumulation of material. At the same time he encouraged donations and organized a good deal of collecting overseas, especially of Pyralidae (on which at one time he had hoped to specialize) and other Microlepidoptera. It was also to avoid any suspicion of a conflict of interests that he scrupulously avoided doing fieldwork in Britain in the museum's time or at its expense — although he continued to collect insects other than Lepidoptera for the museum as a byproduct on all his holidays.

Teddy's wide knowledge of insects and his dual role as both professional and amateur brought him many friends and contacts, and his high curatorial standards

persuaded many notable entomologists to bequeath their collections or contribute material in their lifetimes to the museum. In particular some large collections of British Lepidoptera came in, including those of Arbuthnot, Ffennell (duplicates), Johnson (with exotics), Mackworth-Praed (micros only), Macnicol, Mere, Poore, Richardson, Weddell and de Worms (with exotics). After his retirement as deputy keeper of natural history in 1981, when he moved to Axminster in Devon, Teddy at last saw himself free to work on this material and twice each year he returned to Edinburgh to do a fortnight's voluntary curation. He had amalgamated the various collections as far as Gelechiidae by the time of his death.

Despite his breadth of entomological interest Teddy's main industry throughout his life was the study of British Lepidoptera, and his remarkable recording system and associated collection (for in some ways that is the way round it was) is worth describing. Not only will this help others who may wish to use this important resource, which he bequeathed to the National Museums of Scotland, but also it will illuminate his quite exceptional standards of curation and organization.

On virtually every occasion that Teddy saw an identifiable lepidopteron it was noted — first into a rough notebook, that included records of all insect orders, but then by subsequent transcription into his more formal notebook series entitled 'Lepidoptera records'. The latter are effectively diaries as they are arranged chronologically, and at the time of his death the series comprised 64 foolscap octavo volumes, totalling 17 377 pages numbered as a single sequence, starting on 11 November 1935 and ending on 13 December 1988. However, the early volumes are not originals in the strict sense. Teddy's system and collecting focus were not fully evolved until the late 1940s, when he decided to transcribe all the records to a new series to standardize format. This process was completed by 1954, and from then on the notebooks were compiled essentially as dated.

For each date/locality combination, all species seen are listed on the right hand pages using the nomenclature and systematic sequence of specified checklists and published addenda (Heslop, 1947 until 1973 and then Kloet & Hincks, 1972). Details of frequency are given against each species (sometimes abbreviated F(a few) = 2–5, S(several) = 6–15, M(many) = 16–50, V(very many) = over 50, though complete counts of moth trap catches are regularly given), and early stages are included with emergences later recorded on the date they happened. Any specimen retained for the collection is given a consecutively (and chronologically) running serial number on the left hand page opposite, this number also appearing on the specimen's data label and on any associated slide mounts. A supplementary numbered sequence (prefixed M and chronological only as to date of preparation), also on the left hand pages, is used for slide mounts. These slide numbers are also carried on the relevant specimens, and listed sequentially in a register that records full data and identities as well as details of the chemical preparation of each slide. All updating of information in the notebooks, including species later identified by others collecting with him, notes on reared parasitoids, supplementary descriptions, and cross-referencing of page numbers (for example between dates of collection and emergence), is done on the left hand pages.

One of the most important features of the records is that they are comprehensively indexed. There are two huge loose-leaf indices to the notebooks, one to species (in which page numbers, grouped under year, are recorded for each species on separate sheets that are arranged in systematic sequence), and the other to localities. The latter is arranged through a parish and vice-county system. There are master sheets for each vice-county, on which are listed all parishes from which records were obtained. The locality index itself is then grouped according to VC number



sequentially and, within each vice-county, separate sheets for each parish are arranged alphabetically: on these, relevant page numbers are entered, grouped as before into years. By referring back to the notebooks not only the species seen but also six-figure map references, or details of routes taken, can be extracted.

The whole notebook system is written in pencil (only the serial numbers for retained specimen are in ink), which has presumably contributed much to the extraordinary neatness with which Teddy maintained such a complex array of data. There are also several secondary compilations of organized data abstracted from the primary records system — for example, for localities or families in which he had a

particular interest — and he maintained extensive lists and indices relating to literature on Lepidoptera and to the specimens he had examined in the collections of others.

The same standards of presentation, curatorial neatness and cross-referencing are seen in his collection, which amounts to around 35 600 mounted specimens. All have labels printed in 4-point type (with dates, serial numbers and relevant biological data hand-written in ink) that he prepared on his own Adana press: the alphabetically arranged register of 'labels printed' that he also maintained runs to seven loose-leaf volumes! Supplementary labels refer to the slide collection where appropriate. The herbarium of larval workings is arranged alphabetically according to plant genus and is housed in about 450 transparent plastic wallets in eight loose-leaf volumes, labelled and cross-referenced to the notebooks. The slide collection contains 2682 genitalia preparations of a very high standard, again fully labelled and cross-referenced.

Being based in Scotland for much of his life Teddy did a lot of fieldwork there, but his collecting trips were very widespread. It was a source of pride to him that he had records from every vice-county in the UK and nearly every one in Ireland: indeed when on long car journeys he would often make considerable detours — even at unpromising times of year — in the hope of adding a few personal records from vice-counties only poorly represented in his system, and whenever possible he would travel with his full set of 1" 7th series Ordnance Survey maps, which he much preferred to the 1:50000 series. He always ensured that he had the best possible equipment for all his entomological activities, and spared no effort or cost over this. As well as spending many hours searching suppliers' catalogues for the ideal stationery or perfect device (which he would then buy in bulk), he would often have things specially made or modified. At one time, for example, he had a Morris Minor Traveller with a built-in setting table. His library, too, was formidable and contained some great rarities in its comprehensive coverage of British and European entomology with special reference to the Lepidoptera. He had a particularly good collection of local lists, and the library was also strong in botany and horticulture. His overall aim was always to be in a position to identify any insect or plant he was at all likely — or even rather unlikely — to find.

Teddy was a successful collector, partly because of his continual readiness to expect the unexpected combined with his knowledge of the European fauna. Among the species of Lepidoptera which he added to the British list (in some cases in conjunction with others) are: *Trifurcula subnitidella* (Dup.) = *griseella* Wolff, *Nemapogon inconditella* (Lucas) = *heydeni* Petersen, *Bucculatrix capreella* Krogerus = *meri* Pelham-Clinton, *Parornix alpicola* Wocke, *P. leucostola* Pelham-Clinton, *Callisto coffeella* (Zett.), *Phyllocnistis xenia* Her., *Coleophora sternipennella* (Zett.), *Elachista orstadii* Palm, *E. eskoi* Kyrki & Karvonen, *Agonopterix kuznetzovi* Lvovsky, *Scrobipalpula tussilaginis* (Frey), *Acleris abietana* (Hübner), *Pammene ignorata* Kuznetsov, *Nomophila nearctica* Munroe, *Choloroclystis chloerata* (Mab.), and *Herminia tarsicrinalis* Knoch. But he was not just a lepidopterist: he added also Trichoptera (*Nemataulius punctatolineatus* (Retz.) and *Ylodes reuteri* (McLach.)), Coleoptera (*Mycetoporus hellieseni* Strand, though this is now regarded as conspecific with *M. bauderi* Muls. & Rey), and Diptera (*Culicoides cameroni* Campbell & Pelham-Clinton, *C. manchuriensis* Tokunaga = *machardyi* Campbell & Pelham-Clinton, *C. poperinghensis* Goetghebuer, *C. reconditus* Campbell & Pelham-Clinton, *C. segnisi* Campbell & Pelham-Clinton and *C. subfasciipennis* Kieffer). One species each of Lepidoptera (*Scrobipalpa clintoni* Povolný), Coleoptera (*Atheta clintoni* Kevan) and Diptera (*Culicoides clintoni* Boorman) named in his honour also bear testimony to his breadth of knowledge and influence.

The perfections that Teddy set himself — together with his delight in doing everything for himself, his enjoyment of complicated and logically complete systems, and his being completely undaunted by the immensity of some of the tasks he embarked upon — were strengths, indeed, but carried with them some inevitable penalties. Impressive though his publications are, many of us wish that he had committed more of his knowledge to paper. But Teddy would only publish when the work was up to his own expectations, and even in retirement he found it difficult to make time for a high output. It is particularly unfortunate that so much of his knowledge of the Elachistidae, which was to have been expressed as his next major contribution to *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, has died with him. He will be greatly missed as an associate editor of this series, although his diaries will no doubt continue to be an important source of records for all families.

As a person Teddy was reserved and at first he could seem diffident and shy. He did not find it easy to comprehend those of different backgrounds and outlook. Despite this his company was highly valued by many friends, and his infectious enthusiasm and sense of humour made him an excellent companion: one from whom one did not fail to learn, and in a most enjoyable manner. He worked very closely with Robin Mere, doing much in the Isles of Scilly and the Burren of Co. Clare until Robin's untimely death. After that his closest collecting companion was Denzil Ffennell until he also died at an early age. So Teddy experienced considerable sadness but did not reveal his feelings very often. In the latter years his companion for most trips was John Langmaid.

Besides his entomology there were other interests and in every case he was amazingly knowledgeable. He loved music and gardening, having a special interest in rhododendrons. He was a very fine cook and knew his wines better than most people, so that collecting journeys with those who were able to afford it were often gastronomic adventures!

Teddy will be well remembered by many members of this Society as a reliable and ever helpful mentor, as well as a man of kindness and old-fashioned courtesy. Many who knew him best will also cherish memories of enormous fun, complete with helpless laughter that to outsiders might well have seemed inane. The Society itself receives a bequest of £100 000 under his Will made in 1980: this was intended to have provided permanent accommodation in London, but in recent years the value of property has increased so much that this hope cannot now be realized. Nevertheless the bequest comes at an hour of need and will probably play a crucial role in the Society's current search for a new headquarters.

There was some surprise among all but his closest friends when Teddy succeeded to the title of 10th Duke of Newcastle, only five weeks before his death but in time for some leg-pulling at the 1988 Annual Exhibition and Dinner. In the absence of a male heir the title has now died too. Teddy never married but he is survived by his mother, to whom our sympathies are extended.

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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Oxypoda praecox* Erichson (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) an addition to the British fauna.**—As part of a Nature Conservancy Council survey of the invertebrate fauna of selected coastal shingle sites a number of trap lines were set up at Dungeness, Kent. A pitfall trap placed on an alluvial bar with *Phragmites*, *Urtica dioica* and *Cirsium arvense* between 25.v.89 and 9.vi.89 captured a single female *Oxypoda praecox*. This is one of the smaller *Oxypoda* and most closely resembles *O. lurida*, it has similar long maxillary palpi (rather like *Myllaena*). It is however paler than *lurida*, of broader form, with the abdomen more tapering. It is smaller, 1.7–2.1 mm (*lurida* is 2.3–2.6 mm). Lohse (1974) gives an excellent key, figure of the foreparts showing the long palps and illustrates the genitalia. He states that *praecox* is uncommon. Horion (1976) gives a detailed account of its distribution showing that it comes westwards as far as Belgium and Holland. I thank Dr Ian McLean and Mr Roger Morris of the NCC for the opportunity to examine the Dungeness material.—S.A. Williams 40, Preston Park, Faversham, Kent ME13 8LN.

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